

Application No. 10/750,480
Amendment dated June 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent body suitable for incorporation into disposable absorbent articles, the absorbent body comprising: a non-woven absorbent structure having a unitary construction and comprising absorbent fibers and binder material activated to form inter-fiber bonds within the absorbent structure, the absorbent structure having a longitudinal length, a lateral width and a thickness, a portion of the absorbent structure having ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones that define at least two channels, at least one of the channels running in a longitudinal length direction and at least one of the channels running in a lateral width direction, wherein the channels extend through no less than 10 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, and wherein the channels extend through no more than 90 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, and wherein the density of the absorbent structure ~~is~~ under the channels is less than the density of a portion of the absorbent structure adjacent the channels.

2. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim 1, wherein that portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones has a cylindrical compression at yield which is at least 55 percent less than the cylindrical compression at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the at least one channel running in a longitudinal length direction extends no less than 20 percent of the longitudinal length of the absorbent structure.

5. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the at least one channel running in a lateral width direction extends no less than 20 percent of the lateral width of the absorbent structure.

6. (canceled)

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7. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim 6 1, wherein that portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones has a cylindrical compression load at yield which is at least 30 percent less than the cylindrical compression load at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a fluid pervious liner, a liquid impervious outer cover and an absorbent body disposed between the liner and the outer cover, the absorbent body comprising: a non-woven absorbent structure having a unitary construction and comprising absorbent fibers and binder material activated to form inter-fiber bonds within the absorbent structure, the absorbent structure having a longitudinal length, a lateral width and a thickness, and wherein a portion of the absorbent structure has ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones that define at least two discrete channels wherein the channels extend through no less than 10 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, and wherein the channels extend through no more than 90 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, and wherein the density of the absorbent structure ~~in~~ under the discrete channels is less than the density of a portion of the absorbent structure adjacent the discrete channels.

12. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim 11, wherein that portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones has a cylindrical compression at yield which is at least 55 percent less than the cylindrical compression at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones.

13. (canceled)

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14. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~43~~ 12, wherein the at least one channel running in a longitudinal length direction extends no less than 20 percent of the longitudinal length of the absorbent structure.

15. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~43~~ 12, wherein the at least one channel running in a lateral width direction extends no less than 20 percent of the lateral width of the absorbent structure.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~46~~ 11, wherein that portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones has a cylindrical compression load at yield which is at least 30 percent less than the cylindrical compression load at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) An absorbent body suitable for incorporation into disposable absorbent articles, the absorbent body comprising: a non-woven absorbent structure having a unitary construction and comprising absorbent fibers and binder material activated to form inter-fiber bonds within the absorbent structure, the absorbent structure having a longitudinal length, a lateral width and a thickness, a portion of the absorbent structure having ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones that define at least four channels, at least two of the channels being spaced from one another and running in a longitudinal length direction, at least two of the channels being spaced from one another and running in a lateral width direction, wherein the channels extend through no less than 10 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, and wherein the channels extend through no more than 90 percent of the thickness of the absorbent structure, the portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones having a cylindrical compression load at yield which is at least 55 percent less than the cylindrical compression

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load at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones, and wherein the density of the absorbent structure is under the channels is less than the density of a portion of the absorbent structure adjacent the channels.

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein the channels running in a longitudinal length direction extend no less than 20 percent of the longitudinal length of the absorbent structure.

24. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein the channels running in a lateral width direction extend no less than 20 percent of the lateral width of the absorbent structure.

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The absorbent body of claim ~~25~~ 21, wherein that portion of the absorbent structure having the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones has a cylindrical compression load at yield which is at least 30 percent less than the cylindrical compression load at yield of an otherwise similar absorbent structure free of the ~~discontinuous~~ absorbent zones.

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)
